



**DoD-VA CLINICAL PRACTICE
GUIDELINE ON**

***POST-DEPLOYMENT
HEALTH
EVALUATION &
MANAGEMENT***

Gulf War Syndrome

Agent Orange

PTSD

Battle fatigue

Neurocirculatory asthenia

Shell shock

Effort syndrome

Da Costa's syndrome

Soldier's heart

Recent Unexplained Illnesses Involving the Military, War, Disaster, or Terrorism

- ♠ Dutch peacekeepers in Lebanon (1980s)
- ♠ “Jungle Disease” (Dutch peacekeepers in Cambodia)
- ♠ Gulf War Syndrome
- ♠ Dutch peacekeepers in Bosnia (1995-6)
- ♠ Canadian peacekeepers in Croatia (late 1990s)
- ♠ Balkan War Syndrome
- ♠ Agent Orange Concerns
- ♠ Illnesses after anthrax vaccination (1990s)

- ♠ Afghanistan Syndrome (Russia, 1990s)
- ♠ Chechnya Syndrome (Russia, 1990s)
- ♠ Illnesses after 1992 El Al Airliner crash in Amsterdam
- ♠ Illnesses after WTC attack
- ♠ Lingering anthrax symptoms
- ♠ Irradiated mail concerns
- ♠ Exposure concerns at K-2 (Uzbekistan)
- ♠ *Operation Iraqi Freedom?*

Washingtonpost.com

U.S. Tested Sarin in Hawaiian Rain Forest

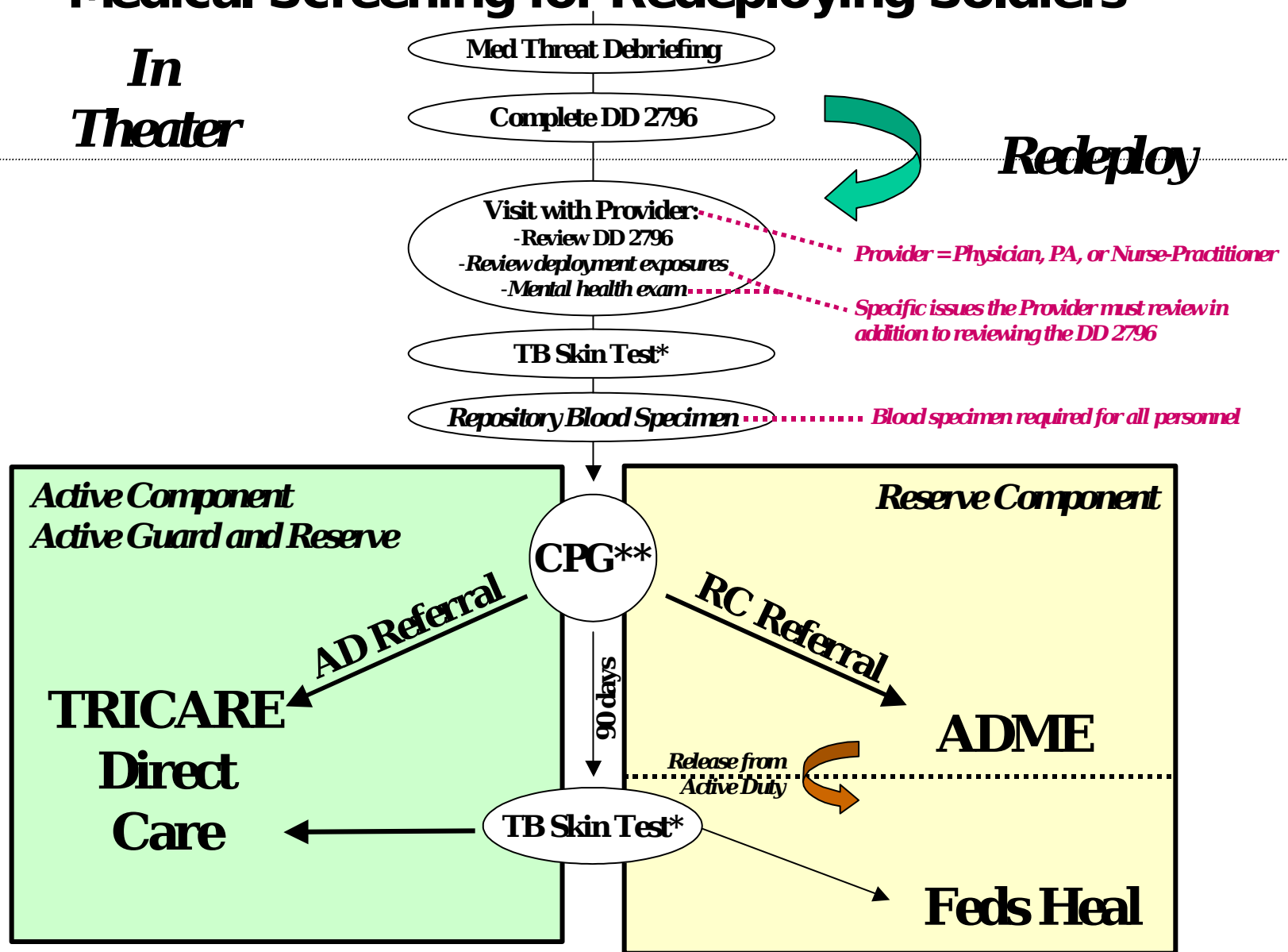
5,000 Troops Involved in 1967 Experiments Are Urged to Contact Pentagon



Medical Screening for Redeploying Soldiers

*In
Theater*

Redeploy



**Clinical Practice Guideline
4 Apr 03

*Two visits, 48-72 hours apart

UNCLASSIFIED

Overview of Guideline Features

- ♠ Military-unique vital sign
- ♠ Stepped care framework
- ♠ Risk communication guidance
- ♠ Web-based clinician support
- ♠ Longitudinal care emphasis
- ♠ Data automation features
- ♠ Metrics & outcomes monitoring
- ♠ Supporting 'center of excellence'

Military Unique Vital Sign



“Is your concern or problem today related to deployment?” (yes-no-maybe)

- ♠ all contacts except wellness visits (e.g., periodic examinations, preventive care)
- ♠ patient rather than clinician determination
- ♠ < 1% of patients say ‘yes’

Visit for Deployment Related Concern



♠ ICD-9-CM visit code: v70.5__6

♠ Definition:

“A visit used to evaluate, clarify, treat, or provide information regarding one or more patient or provider based post-deployment health concerns.”

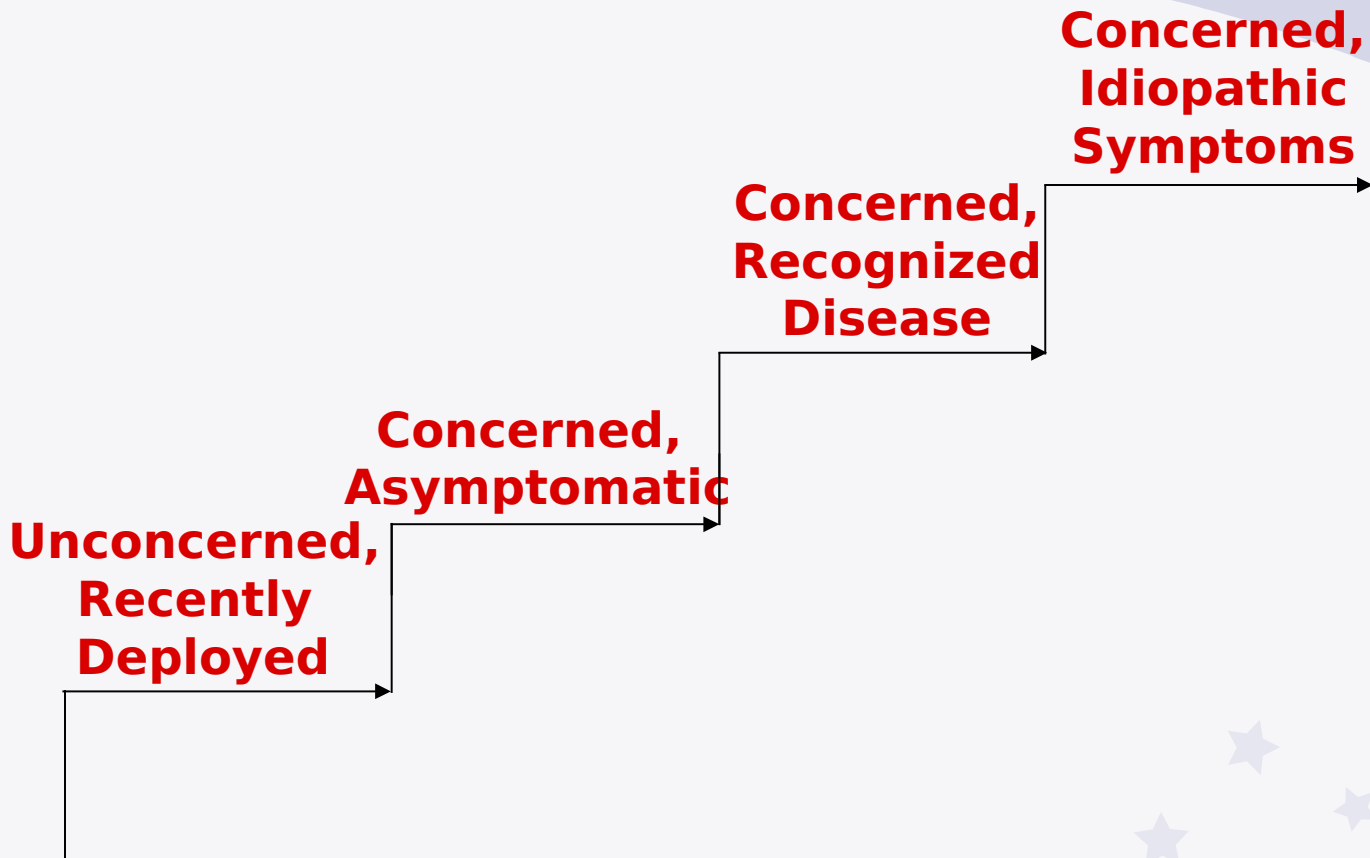
♠ “This code does not necessarily establish or imply causality between any of the provider’s diagnoses and any particular deployment.”

ICD-9-CM visit code: **v70.5_ _6**

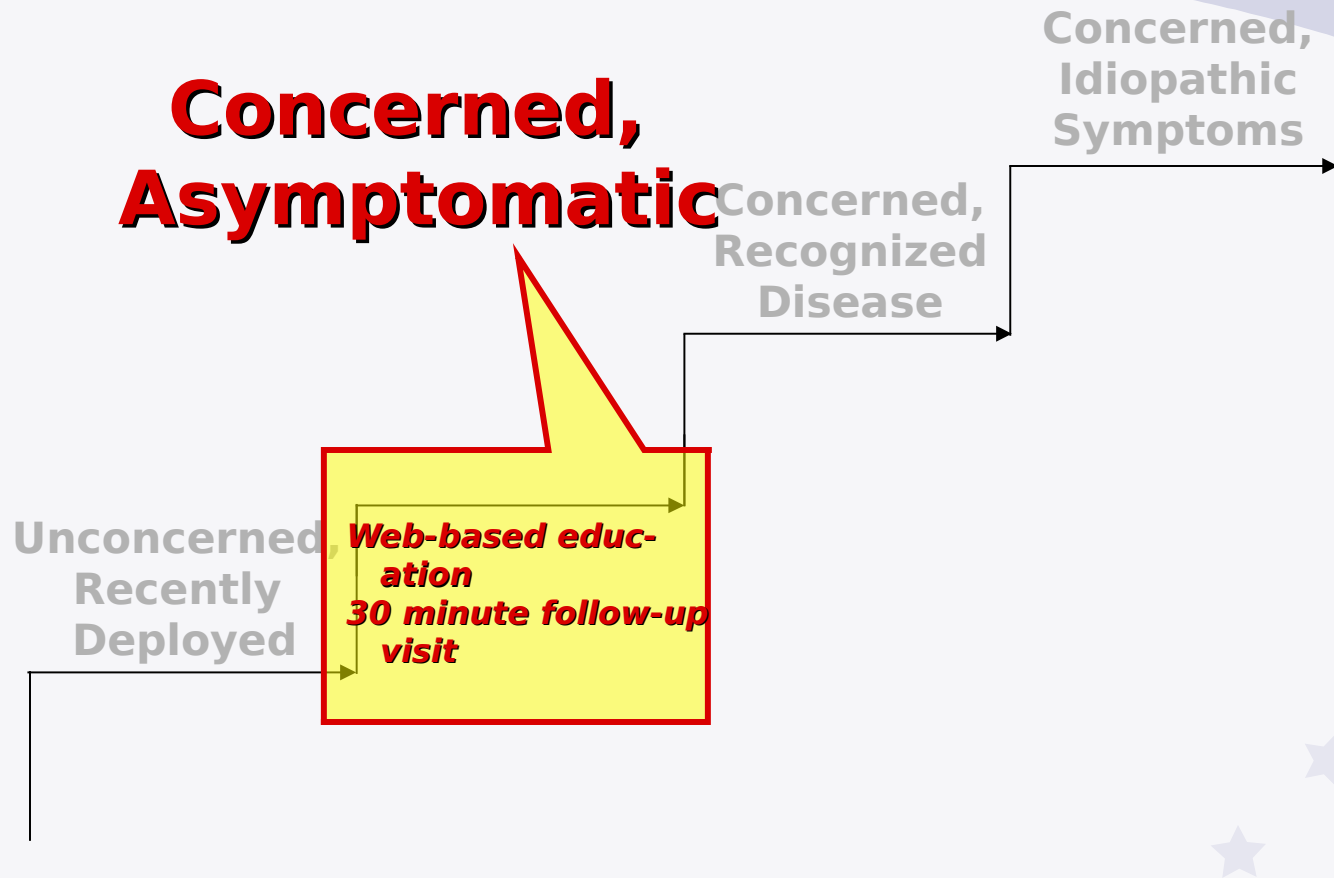


- ♠ **Code in primary diagnosis position** for deployment health concerns and for routine post-deployment (“demob”) exams
- ♠ Code medical conditions in secondary (non-primary) diagnosis positions.
- ♠ “E&M Codes” will be used to differentiate demob exams from CPG exams.
- ♠ Complete PASBA coding guidance available on PDHealth.mil & MEDCOM QM Directorate websites – **inform coders** & UM people

Stepped Risk Communication



Stepped Risk Communication



The Asymptomatic Patient with Health Concerns



- ♠ ICD-9-CM code: **v70.5__6 plus v65.5**
Expresses a health concern, but does not exhibit or describe any discernable illness or injury
- ♠ Concerns related to
 - Illness
 - Exposure
 - An experience
 - News media coverage
 - Another information source



PDHealth.mil

**World Wide Web Support
for Post-Deployment
Health Care**

*Designed For Federal & Civilian Clinicians, Soldiers, & Their
Families*

Stepped Risk Communication



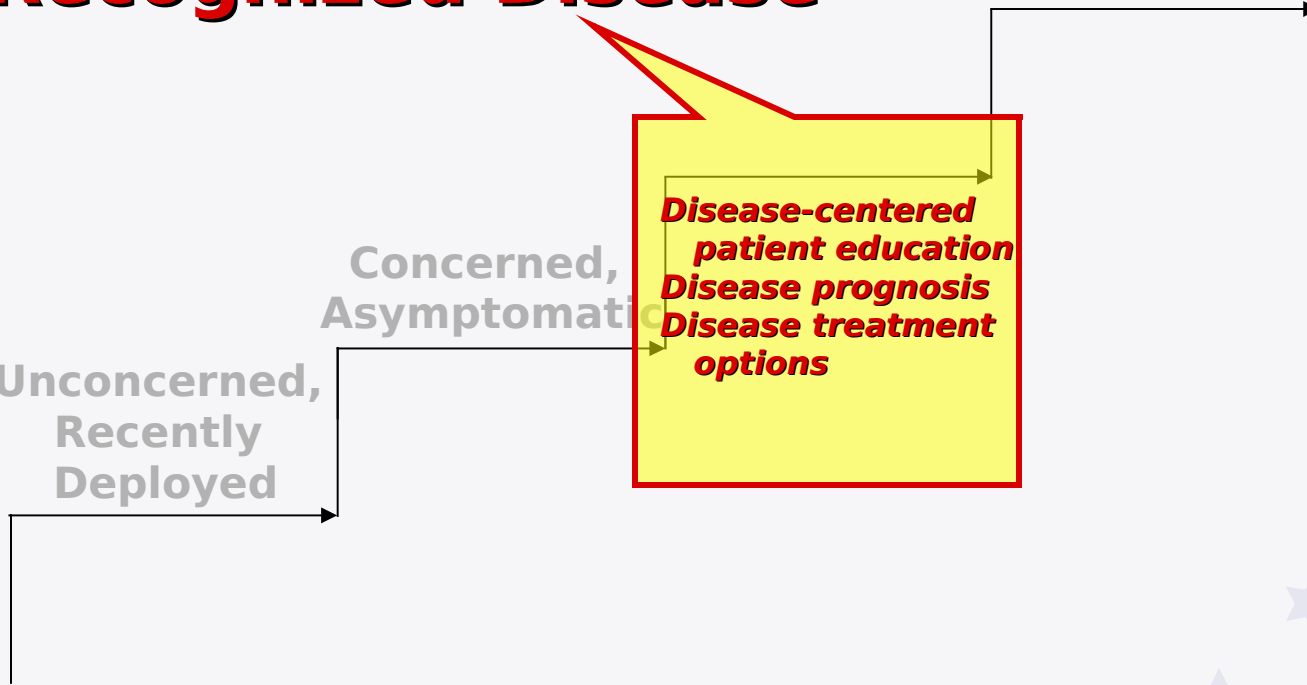
**Concerned,
Recognized Disease**

Concerned,
Idiopathic
Symptoms

Concerned,
Asymptomatic

Unconcerned,
Recently
Deployed

*Disease-centered
patient education
Disease prognosis
Disease treatment
options*



ICD-9-CM Coding for Identifiable Disease

v70.5_ _6 plus
usual disease code



Stepped Risk Communication



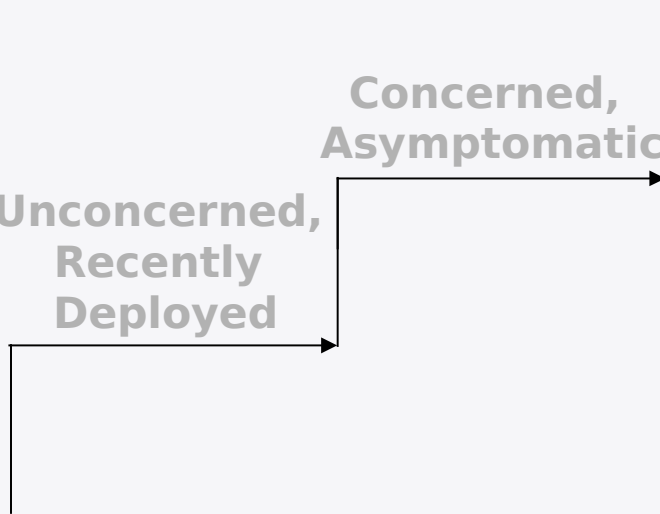
**Concerned,
Idiopathic
Symptoms**

Concerned,
Recognized
Disease

*Symptom-based patient
education
Consult Deployment Health
Clinical Center
Consider Specialized Care
Program*

Concerned,
Asymptomatic

Unconcerned,
Recently
Deployed



Medically Unexplained Symptoms (MUS)



Physical symptoms that provoke care-seeking, but have no clinically determined pathogenesis after an appropriately thorough diagnostic evaluation.”

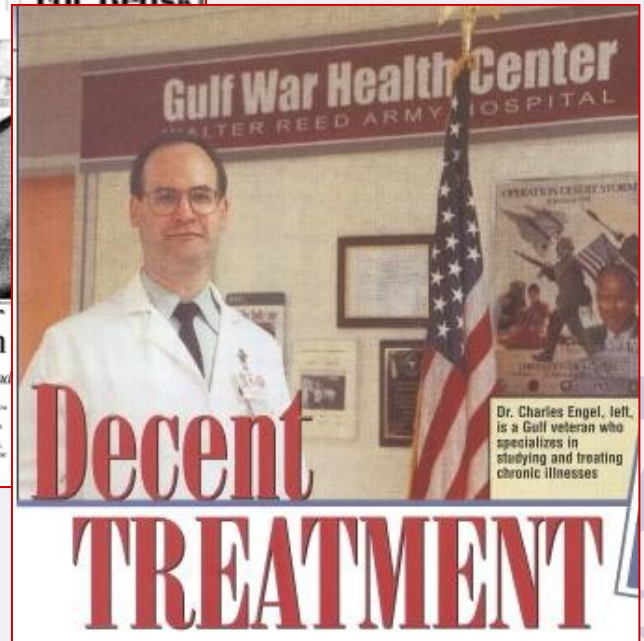
ICD-9-CM - **v70.5__6 plus 799.8 (MUS Code)**

A DoD Center of Excellence

Deployment Health Clinical Center & Specialized Care Program



Soldiering On in the Face of Pain
Veterans Help Invent a Plan of Attack for Their Medical No Man's Land



For Assistance



DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center 866-559-1627

Walter Reed Army Medical Center 202-782-6563

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